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Minister MacKay to Travel to London, Turin and Brussels

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Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay today announced that he will travel to Europe from February 21 to March 1, 2006, to meet with a number of his European counterparts, as well as the secretaries-general of the Commonwealth and NATO. The Minister will travel to London, England; Turin, Italy; and Brussels, Belgium.

"I am looking forward to meeting a number of my counterparts, to establishing relationships with key G8 and NATO leaders and to exchanging views on a wide range of political and security issues, including Afghanistan, Iran and the Middle East, as well as Canada-European Union relations," said Minister MacKay. "I will also take the opportunity to learn more about the work of my department's officials in representing Canada abroad."

Minister MacKay will be in London from February 22 to 23, 2006, where he will meet with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and Commonwealth Secretary-General Donald McKinnon, as well as with Canadian officials.

Minister MacKay will travel to Turin on February 23, 2006, to meet with Canadian and international Olympic officials. He will participate in a number of events in support of Canada's athletes and in preparation for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. The Minister will also represent the federal government at the closing ceremonies.

The Minister will travel to Brussels on February 27, 2006, where he will meet with NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, European Union (EU) High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana, European Commission External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Austrian Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik (representing the EU presidency), and a number of foreign ministers of EU member states.

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